(b) The DPC for selection to Junior Administrative Grade, Selection Grade and Senior Administrative Grade consists of Chairman, Railway Board, who is ex-officio Principal Secretary to the Govt. of India, Financial Commissioner (Railways) and all other Members of Railway Board who are of the rank of Secretary to the Govt. of India. The panels are approved by the Minister of Railways on behalf of the President. This is a very high level DPC, totally objective and fair. The cases of SC/ST officers are considered with due care as per extant instructions and cases where officers are found infit for empanelment are submitted to the Minister of Railways at the time of approval of the panel.

(c) and (d) SC/ST officers who are found fit and are within the number of vacancies for posts upto Rs. 5,700/- are empanelled, as per extant instructions. It is not correct that any benefit/relaxation available for SC/ST officers has been denied to them.

Accidents involving hazardous chemicals

2585. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accidents involving hazardous chemicals have increased with the rapid growth of chemical industries;

(b) if so, the details of such accidents during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to prevent these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) As per information made available by the State Chief Inspector of Factories, no increasing trend is discernible in respect of major accidents in the last three years in chemical industries.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps required for prevention of accidents due to the handling of hazardous chemicals have been laid down in the relevant sections of the Factories Act, 1948, as amended in 1987 and the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 notified with a view to prevent accidents and minimise effects of accidents both on man and the environment. A yearly inspection of the industries by the concerned authority, the State Inspectorate of Factories, conduct of mock drill of the on-site plan every six months and submission of the report of the trial by the occupier are also mandatory. Preparation of safety report and conduct of periodic safety audit is also laid down in the rules. A comprehensive guide to the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 and a Manual on Emergency Preparendness for Chemical Hazards have been brougnt out to facilitate better compliance by the concerned industries and the regulatory agencies.

Amendments to the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, enhancing the scope by way of redefining hazardous chemicals based on UN definition, is under discussion. A set of rules entitled "Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996 has been notified on 2nd August,1996. These rules envisage a 4-tier system for management of chemical accidents in the country.

बिहार में जाली रेलवे पास संबंधी रैकेट

2586. श्री रमा देव भंडारी: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 10 अगस्त, 1996 के "दि टाइम्स आफ इंडिया" (दिल्ली संस्करण) में 'रैकेट इन फेक रेलवे पासेस थ्राइविंग इन बिहार' शीर्षक के अंतर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;